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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of External Affairs

Will you respond to this for me.

William J. Casey

Date 12 October 1982

William J. Miller

Sept. 6, 1982

8 SEP 1982

Dear Bill —

I am now finally tackling the job of actually writing my long-contemplated book on the October 1944 OSS Dawes Mission behind the Nazi lines in Slovakia. I have just finished a fortnight's research, interviewing survivors Kenneth Dunlevy in Gaithersburg, Steve Catlos in Pittsburgh (I had long since taken down Maria Gulovich's whole story), and a week's combing of the massive five volume file, at Federal Records Center in Suitland, of the 1946 Dachau court-martial (U.S. Army vs. Altfuldisch et al.) which brought death sentences by hanging to the 61 surviving SS torturers of the Mauthausen death camp.

Through your kind help, I already have the complete OSS file on Dawes itself, but now hope that other OSS files may yield some additional background on the officers and men who were executed. I tried to reach you while at Suitland, and did speak to your public affairs chief whose name I unfortunately misplaced.

I am particularly eager to learn a bit more about the pre-Dawes OSS work of the c.o., Lieut . (James) Holt Green, USNR. His sister, Mrs. John Frost of Charleston, has provided me a picture of him with an unidentified Army lieutenant "at Berani, Feb. 1944" evidently sent her by the lieutenant himself. Storefront backgrounds in Cyrillic are evidently Yugoslav. I assume he was then in Yugoslavia, but whether with Tito or Mihailovic I should like very much to establish.

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I have a good deal on Lieut. James Gaul, USNR, from his sister Mrs. Ione (Hudson) Walker who has long lived in nearby Provincetown. But I also have a picture of him taken in Cairo, outside an ornate and palatial gate. I would guess he was in Egypt (perhaps Green also) undergoing drop training from the Brits in the desert.

What I am hoping is that collateral OSS files and reports, unrelated to Dawes itself, may yield me some more information on Green's and Gaul's OSS work prior to Dawes. You may have my pledge that on this, and any other material not yet provided me, you will have final clearance on any use made of it in the book.

From Macan's Chicago family I have a photo of him taken in Slovakia with Maj. John Sehmer of PWB, Bari, a British officer who had been dropped on a separate mission but finally joined forces with Green. I believe he was a school teacher, I would assume of Slovak descent. I should like to learn whatever more I can about him, and all the other members who are listed on the "American Mission to Czechoslovak Forces of Interior (CFI)" already provided me by your office. The Foreign Office has been most helpful to me with Maj. Sehmer's "Windproof" Mission. They also referred me to the most complete account yet written of Special Operations Executive, by Maj. Jack ~~Book~~ G. Beevor ("SOE: Recollections and Reflections" 1940¹⁹⁴⁵). It is amazing that he is not even aware of Maj. Sehmer's and the others' fate. He has the members of these missions perishing in the mountains from exposure!

I believe I have already told you of my personal interest.

I was news chief at PWB , Bari, which was part of the British Force 266, a multiple of Force 135 in Cairo. I had the assimilated rank of lieutenant colonel. Prior to switching back to the Cleveland Press as war correspondent in June, 1944, I shared a Bari apartment with the AP war correspondent Joseph Morton, a close and dear friend and an ace reporter, who accompanied the October mission and was executed.

His story is unique in that he is the only war correspondent ever to be executed by the enemy--unless Pancho Villa killed Ambrose Bierce. My book will focus on him, recreating the atmosphere of those '44 days when he obtained the first interview with Tito, flew in with the 15th as it rescued the airmen shot down over Ploesti and obtained King Michael's marvelous story of how he summoned Dictator Antonescu to the palace, then had him seized and locked in a closet just like Victor Emmanuel did with Mussolini; his party in our apartment for Maj. Herrschel Green of 15th Air Force when he won his fifth oak leaf cluster on the DFC for shooting down his 38th Messerschmitt, etc. But I wish also to recreate so far as possible the backgrounds and previous activities of the other members of the Mission. I can now do this with Dunlevy and Catlos (and Maria to whom they owe their lives) but would deeply appreciate any and all other information the collateral OSS files may yield on the others.

With every good wish, I am

Ever yours

Brie M.

Director William J. Casey
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.